

REMARKS

This Amendment, submitted in response to the Office Action dated April 26, 2005, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 5-12, 14, 17, and 21-26 are pending in the present application.

I. Preliminary Matters

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner approve the drawings filed December 8, 2000, by marking the box in the Office Action Summary indicating that the drawings are accepted.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 2, 3, 5-8, and 21-25 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 9-12, 14, 17 and 26 are allowed.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 2. Consequently, claim 1 and its dependent claims should now be deemed allowable.

Claims 5 and 6 have been rewritten in independent form to include the subject matter of allowable claim 4, claim 4 has consequently been canceled. Therefore, claims 5 and 6 and their dependent claims should now be deemed allowable.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
Appln. No.: 09/731,973

Attorney Docket No.: Q61250

Claims 21, 22, 23 and 24 have been rewritten in independent form, consequently, claims 19, 20, and 16 have been canceled.

Claims 13, 15, 18 and 20 have also been canceled from the present application.

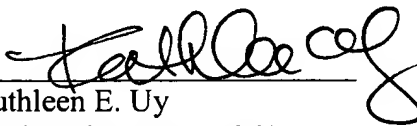
Applicant submits that the Application is now in a condition for allowance.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: July 26, 2005